

Hingtgen, Robert J

To: Fogg, Mindy
Cc: Bennett, Jim
Subject: RE: El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project

From: Terry Burke-Eiserling [<mailto:tburkeiserling@cox.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 8:16 PM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: robert.hingtgen@sdcounty.ca.gov; Orozco, Juliette; Fogg, Mindy
Subject: El Monte Valley Sand Mining Project

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am very concerned about the fragile environment of our El Monte Valley and the proposed Sand Mining Project. I ask that you consider my thoughts and opinions as a respected community member regarding this very special valley.

This project isn't a temporary 15 year project...once this is approved the damage is done, and in my lifetime I will not see a full reversal of it's impact on the water table, the wildlife, and the many native plants that make up this valley. Given the fragility of our water needs in our community and the overt and news worthy evidence of wild animals entering neighborhoods as their water areas are drying up and disappearing. It is clear that this drought and potential damage to most water environments needs to be protected. None of us in our state can afford to add a business to our community that uses water as part of its maintenance process and production. This is not a project of recycling the water like a car wash...this is using up the water table. This is serious and needs serious consideration to the remaining families, businesses and wildlife in El Monte Valley. Once the groundwater has been compromised, the rest of the ecosystem will become truly unbalanced for all.

I do understand in some years past there was sand mining done in this valley, then a proposed golf course that is in some kind of litigation. What has happened since the sand mining stopped is the ability of the valley to regenerate to part of its natural environment. Through the years a lack of documentation of what was present in the valley prior to the last sand mining use to what has been lost cannot be documented. What is gone is gone and has not recovered. We all remember climbing through trails and finding horney toads...I haven't seen one in many years. The idea of mining this area and steering up dusts and environment hazards no matter how much water you use to keep the dust down (note above comments from first paragraph) will not be effective. Having lived next to a house project the amount of dust that has come up with no regard to my household is alarming. The fact that Hazardous Materials were involved and required special removal made me fearful for my health and my families health. Still the clouds of dust and dirt remain a problem for me. This valley and these families cannot afford to be made ill from Valley Fever or any other pathogens that may occur especially to medically fragile individuals.

I love El Monte Valley, the County has already recognized its strengths and structures in that they have approved and maintained El Monte County Park, and the pretty new Trail and Staging area for riding and hiking. That in and of itself speaks miles of the value of preserving this land and water for our residents. El

Monte Valley does matter and it seems to allow a sand mining project to go into this valley is in conflict with the very nature and mission of our San Diego County Parks Department and Trail Systems. This is a pristine valley and it takes my breath away each time I visit it...I don't want to see this environment disturbed in any manner.

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